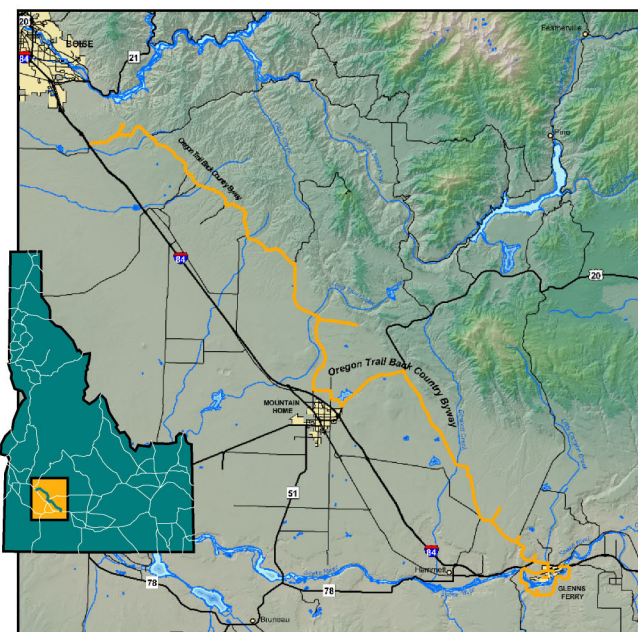




Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway

Starting at the crossing of the Snake River, you will follow the route of the pioneers as they crossed the Idaho desert in a covered wagon pulled by weary oxen. Travelers can walk in the ruts created by thousands of emigrants in search of new homes in Oregon and visit the historic sites of the emigrant diaries. Much of this route appears today as it did when the emigrants traveled this route. The main Oregon Trail from Three Island Crossing of the Snake River to the Boise River was the primary route utilized by the emigrants for the first 10 years of the Trail. Thousands of pioneers struggled across the dusty sagebrush-covered plains of Idaho with their possessions in a covered wagon. Freight and stage roads utilized much of the Oregon Trail as they developed. Travelers and freighters continued to use the route long after the building of the railroads across southern Idaho, even into the early 1900's. The Idaho desert proved to be some of the most dangerous and difficult travel the pioneers endured on their long journey.



Location - The byway starts at Glenns Ferry, 75 miles southeast of Boise. It can be reached from exit 121 of I-84.

Length - 102 miles. It is an all-day trip from Boise.

Roadway - One-third of the route is paved roadways, two-thirds of the route is graveled roads

When to see it - The byway is best traveled in late spring after the roads have dried out or in the fall when the weather has cooled. The route can be very hot during the summer.

Special attractions - Numerous historical sites can be found along the route. These include Three Island Crossing of the Snake River, the hot springs site, Canyon Creek, and Mayfield.

Camping - Camping is available at Three Island State Park in Glenns Ferry.

Services - Full services are available in Glenns Ferry and Mountain Home. No services are available along the byway.

Contacts - Idaho chapter Oregon-California Trails Association: www.idahoOCTA.org; Boise District, Bureau of Land Management: 208-384-3300; Desert Mountain Visitor Center: 208-587-4464. Byway sign graphic courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management.

Byway sign graphic courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management.